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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Athens wants EU in Cyprus talks - Hurriyet
US Official: Turks very constructive, cooperative - Hurriyet
Erdogan thanks Denktas - Milliyet
Ziyal the 'brain' of Turkish strategy - Vatan
Denktas' initiative boosts domestic markets - Vatan
Al Zarkavi new target of Americans - Aksam
Assassination attempt against Abizaid - Sabah
Peres: Turkey may become 'key player' in Middle East -
Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Cyprus talks turning into a tactical war - Radikal
Athens claims everything under control - Cumhuriyet
Mubarek: US 'Greater Middle East' project a pipe dream -
Cumhuriyet
Pilot Bush vs. Vietnam vet Kerry - Radikal
PM Erdogan rebukes Amnesty International - Yeni Safak
 Hamas calls for increased suicide attacks - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Cyprus: Following a request by the Greek Cypriots to involve the EU in the Cyprus negotiations, Ankara contacted Washington to discuss the possibility for US participation in the talks, "Cumhuriyet" claims. However, the EU is expected to refrain from such an involvement due to fears of delaying the negotiation process. Foreign Minister Gul said that the Turkish side would continue to demonstrate goodwill in the talks. Ankara has not objected to the Annan conditions. In return, Ankara is expecting American support for possible amendments to the UN-sponsored peace plan. Turkish dailies reflect a mood of celebration for Turkey's 'diplomatic success,' and say that Turkey has emerged as the chief architect of a solution in Cyprus through its political determination and diplomatic creativity. But Denktas expressed caution, saying that victory is still far from guaranteed. Meanwhile, hopes for a solution in Cyprus boosted share prices on the Turkish stock market yesterday.

Amnesty International meets PM Erdogan: During a meeting in Ankara on Thursday, visiting Amnesty International (AI) President Irene Khan urged Prime Minister Erdogan to secure the release of jailed former Kurdish lawmakers Leyla Zana and Hatip Dicle. Erdogan accused AI of double standards, noting that the organization ignored his own trial in 1999 after Erdogan was charged with reciting a religious poem, while at the same time it was intervening in the case of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan. Erdogan said that he could not interfere in the ongoing judiciary process concerning the Kurdish lawmakers, but that NGOs might take action to press for their release.

Mubarek uneasy with 'Greater Middle East' project: Turkey's growing weight in the region compelled Egypt's President Mubarek to pay a hasty visit to Ankara on Wednesday, according to "Cumhuriyet." Mubarek criticized the US strategy for 'modernization and democratization' of a broad region from Libya to Central Asia. Mubarek said that the US project for a 'Greater Middle East' is nothing but 'a pipe

dream,' and would not succeed due to historical, political and cultural differences in the region.

Shimon Peres visits Turkey: Turkey's EU accession could enable the EU to take an active role in the Middle East peace process, former Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres said during his visit to Ankara on Thursday. Peres came to Turkey as the guest of opposition CHP leader Deniz Baykal. Peres noted Ankara's possible role as a mediator between Israel and Syria, and urged the Turkish side to remain active in the Middle East peace process. Peres also added that a solution to the Cyprus problem could serve as an example for the Middle East.

Medya-TV license annulled: A decision by France's broadcasting authority, CSA, to cancel the license of Medya-TV, the media mouthpiece of the PKK/KADEK, was upheld Thursday by a French appeals court. The court ruled that Medya-TV was, in effect, a continuation of the banned Med TV. The court argued that Medya-TV broadcasts were an incitement to violence. Medya-TV broadcasts, which reached 77 countries via satellite, were suspended on Thursday.

EDITORIAL OPINION:
Election 2004; Cyprus

"John Kerry: Is he the new US president?"
Turkkaya Ataov commented in the social democrat-intellectual Cumhuriyet (2/13): "The Democrats had been working to finalize their presidential nomination process while President Bush was preparing for his fourth 'State of the Union' address, which was basically to become an election speech. Last year he did not hesitate to disseminate lies about Saddam having vast stocks of WMD, so it was expected that his address would fuel the controversy about the accuracy of those claims. On the other hand, President Bush has more campaign funds from US corporate contributors than the Democrats could possibly accumulate. . On the Democratic side, it seems that John Kerry is the leading figure. He has a good record in the past, including his stance about Iraq, his efforts among Vietnam Veterans, and the good example he created during his 14 years as attorney general. . John Kerry is undoubtedly a much more suitable name than George Bush. Yet George Bush has more financial resources and also enjoys support from the CIA, the military and the US industrial giants."

"Turkey Wins Big in Cyprus Chess Match"
Mehmet Ali Birand observed in the mass appeal Posta (2/13): "I spoke to some Turkish officials attending the Washington summit who also thought differently from Denktas. I got almost the same answer from all of them. 'Denktas has made progress,' they said. 'He is close to accepting the Annan plan that he hates. You should give him his due. He has been defending Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot side during these negotiations, not just his personal views. There would have been a lot of trouble if he had done it differently.' We criticized Denktas a lot, but now we have to give him his due. . What does this development mean? Let's not kid ourselves. What happened in New York is crystal clear, and can be summed as follows: The Turkish side has accepted the Annan plan as the basis for a solution, and will implement the necessary measures to end the Cyprus problem. This shows how serious Turkey is in trying to become a member of the European Union. In short, the Turkish government surprised both us and the world."

EDELMAN